

AMENDMENT(S) TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A unitary membrane for use in a pressing apparatus, comprising:
  - a continuous belt having a predetermined total permeability;
  - a pair of impermeable longitudinal edge portions on said belt; and
  - a semipermeable portion having a plurality of intercommunicating pores, said
- 5 semipermeable portion being positioned on said belt between said pair of impermeable longitudinal edge portions,  
wherein said unitary membrane comprises a formed fabric, said unitary membrane having  
a thickness less than about 0.1 inches, and wherein said semipermeable portion is both gas and  
liquid permeable, and has a total permeability greater than zero and less than about five CFM per  
10 square foot as measured by TAPPI test method TIP 0404-20.
2. (previously presented) The unitary membrane of claim 1, wherein said semipermeable portion has a total permeability greater than zero and less than about two CFM per square foot as measured by TAPPI test method TIP 0404-20.
3. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said total permeability is determined by at least one of a size, a shape, a frequency and a pattern of a plurality of pores in said semipermeable portion.
4. (original) The unitary membrane of claim 1, wherein said pair of longitudinal edge portions are tapered such that a cross-section of said unitary membrane has a trapezoidal shape.

5. (cancelled)

6. (original) The unitary membrane of claim 1, wherein said formed fabric forms a flow resistance layer near a surface of said unitary membrane.

7. (original) The unitary membrane of claim 6, wherein said unitary membrane further comprises a fluid distribution layer adjacent said flow resistance layer.

8. (original) The unitary membrane of claim 1, further comprising a surface which is abrasion resistant.

9. (original) The unitary membrane of claim 1, wherein said semipermeable portion has a void percentage of less than 40 percent.

10-19. (cancelled)